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MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS WOLVERINE

Sam Kieth — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.

WOLVERINE/ TYPHOID MARY 1

TYPHOID'S KISS
Part 1 of 8
"IT'S NEVER OVER"

Wolverine's wasn't the only mind that got messed with in the old days. As more of his twisted past comes back to haunt him, fate shifts to place a certain "pair" of ladies in Logan's path...

Writer — ANN NOCENTI
Artist — STEVE LIGHTLE
Letterer — BILL OAKLEY
Colorist —KELLY CORVESE

pg.

YOUNG GODS 9

AGAINST A ROGUE GOD
Part 9 of 9
"THE FINAL CONFLICT"

Reunited, the Young Gods face their final battle with Nauda of the Silver Hand in order to save the Earth!

Writers — CONWAY/FEIN
Penciler — SCOTT KOLINS
Inker — JONATHAN HOLDREDGE
Letterer — MICHAEL HIGGINS
Colorist — TOM SMITH

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POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, c o MARVEL COMICS, SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in the U.S.A.

MARVEL READERS PRESENT

c/o Marvel Comics Group
387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016
Attention Correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Dear Terry and Mark,

Here is my review of MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #103, starting with the covers:

Wolverine/Nightcrawler: This has to be one of Sam Kieth's most hilarious covers yet! Seeing the bad guys tumbling down on Logan and Kurt was a funny sight. Grade: B+

Ghost Rider/Dr. Strange: I liked Kieth's drawings of both Strange and Gormac, but his Ghost Rider seems, well, bloated. Better luck next time, Sam. Grade: B

"Male Bonding" Part 3: This story seems to be proceeding at a nice pace. The monsters' plight seems very similar to the one faced by mutants in their titles. Scott has set up an interesting situation, and I can't wait to see part 4. My only complaint is that the last page wasn't very clear. Is Nightcrawler going to help the monsters, or not? Grade: A

"Doorway to Darkness" Part 3: Looks like one of Ghost Rider's victims is after some vengeance of his own. Strange and the Ghost Rider certainly have a lot of enemies to deal with in this issue, and they haven't even met Gormac yet! What I liked best about this chapter were Janice Chiang's letters on page one. I love the way each narration caption began with fancy letters. Grade: A+

"Against a Rogue God" Part 3: The Young Gods finally reach Earth, and we finally see the terror lurking in Ireland beneath the Druid burial mound. The earth-monster was well drawn, even if it was only shown for three pages. However, I did find one problem with the story. Last issue, the Celestials told the Young Gods that Earth would be destroyed if anyone found out about their being demi-gods. So why, in this issue, do the Young Gods fight the terrorists with their powers? Did the Celestials lie, or did the terrorists just think the Gods were mutants? Grade: A

"Stage Fright": Aside from my complaint that Rintrah isn't green, but blue, this was a nice story. I especially loved the humorous way Rintrah got out of trouble by pretending he was part of the play. What's next? A role on Broadway? Grade: A

Ben Herman
New Rochelle, NY

Dear Terry,

Re MCP #103:

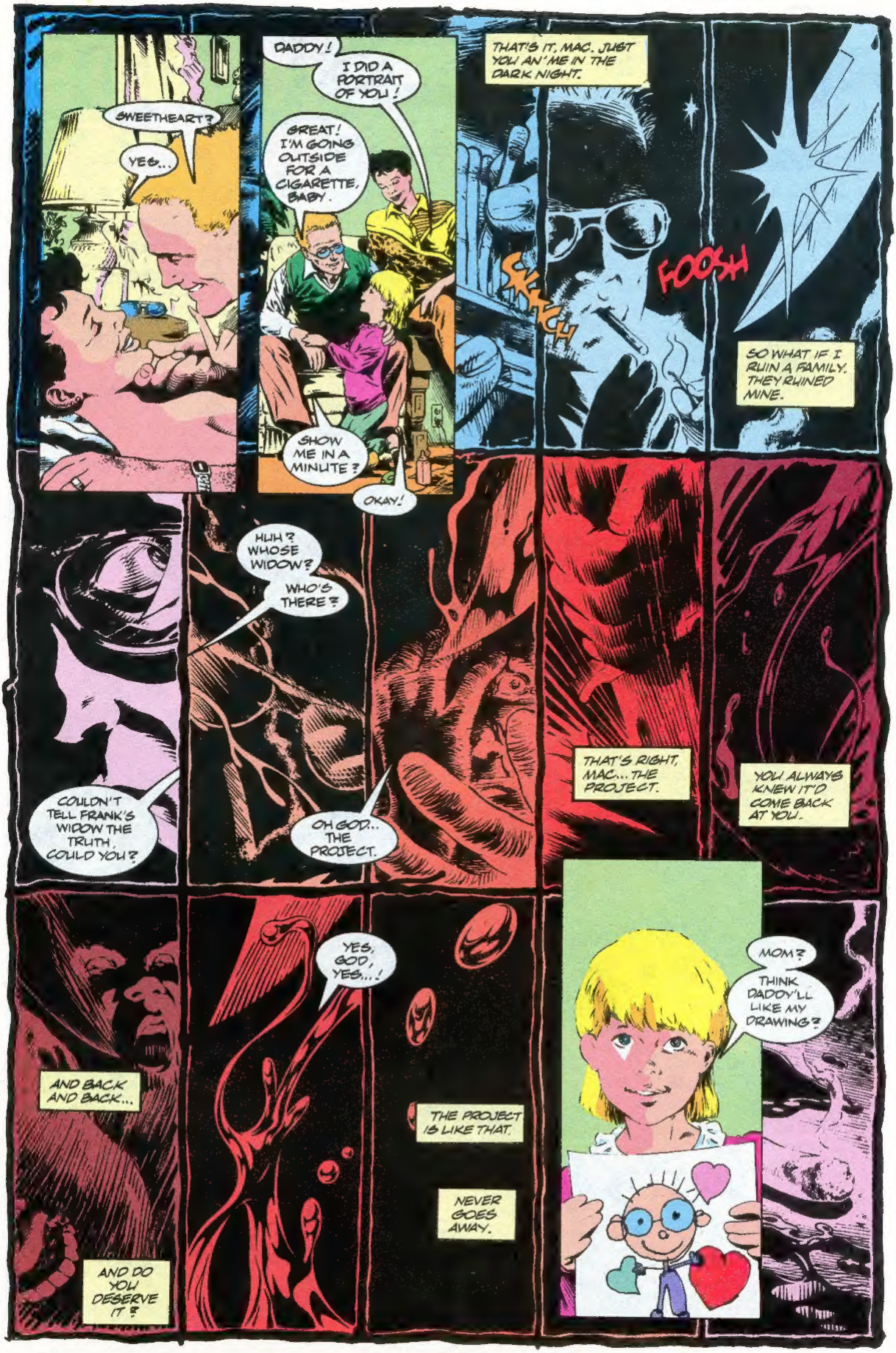
Wolverine/Nightcrawler: Gene and Al: Yuck! I don't mean to be rude, but that was what I thought when I saw the art. I love your work elsewhere, but when I flipped through the book before reading it, it took me a while to figure out that was Nightcrawler on the first three pages. As for you, Scott, it's getting better! Part three was refreshing because it had a story with good plot, not punch. You get 2 1/2 claws for the writing.

Young Gods: I don't know if it's just me, but overall this story is not interesting. The art's good, and the story had a good set-up. It's not another of those "punch now, think about the story later" stories—it was well thought out. But, it doesn't do wonders for me. 2 claws for the attempt.

Ghost Rider/Dr. Strange: Okay, I know I complain about stories with big battles and little plot, but I enjoyed this story despite the fact that it was just that. Gorn seems like a really interesting character. As a matter of fact, this was the most interesting story in the book! 4 claws!

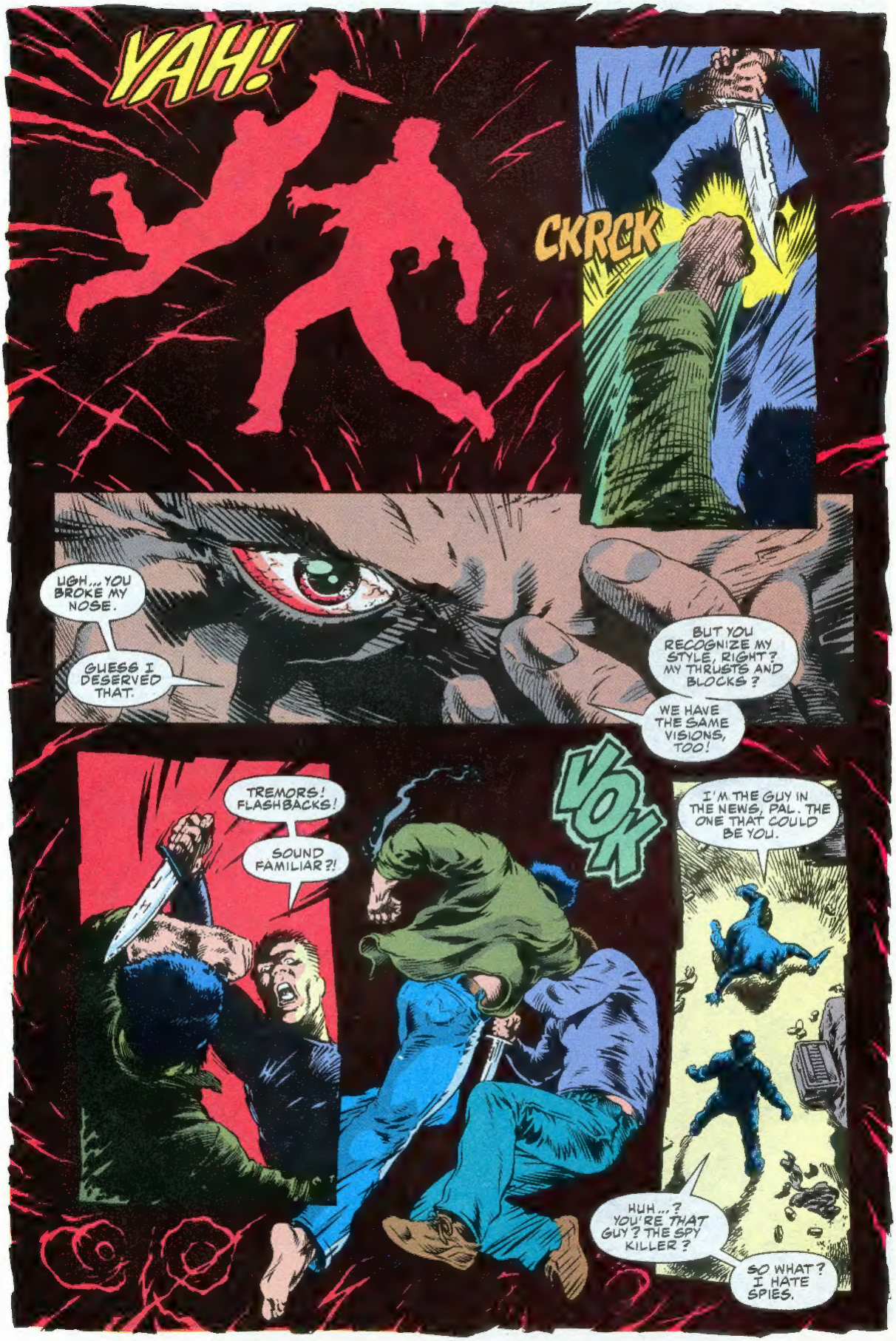
Rintrah: It was nice to see this guy solo, if only for eight pages. 3 claws!

Aaron Belisle
3 Danielle Ct.
Suffern, NY 10901


SWEETHEART?
YES...
DADDY!
I DID A PORTRAIT OF YOU!
GREAT! I'M GOING OUTSIDE FOR A CIGARETTE, BABY.
SHOW ME IN A MINUTE?
OKAY!
THAT'S IT, MAC. JUST YOU AN' ME IN THE DARK NIGHT.
SKKCH
FOOSH
SO WHAT IF I RUIN A FAMILY. THEY RUINED MINE.
COULDN'T TELL FRANK'S WIDOW THE TRUTH, COULD YOU?
HUH? WHOSE WIDOW?
WHO'S THERE?
OH GOD... THE PROJECT.
THAT'S RIGHT, MAC... THE PROJECT.
YOU ALWAYS KNEW IT'D COME BACK AT YOU.
AND BACK AND BACK...
AND DO YOU DESERVE IT?
YES, GOD, YES...!
THE PROJECT IS LIKE THAT.
NEVER GOES AWAY.
MOM?
THINK DADDY'LL LIKE MY DRAWING?

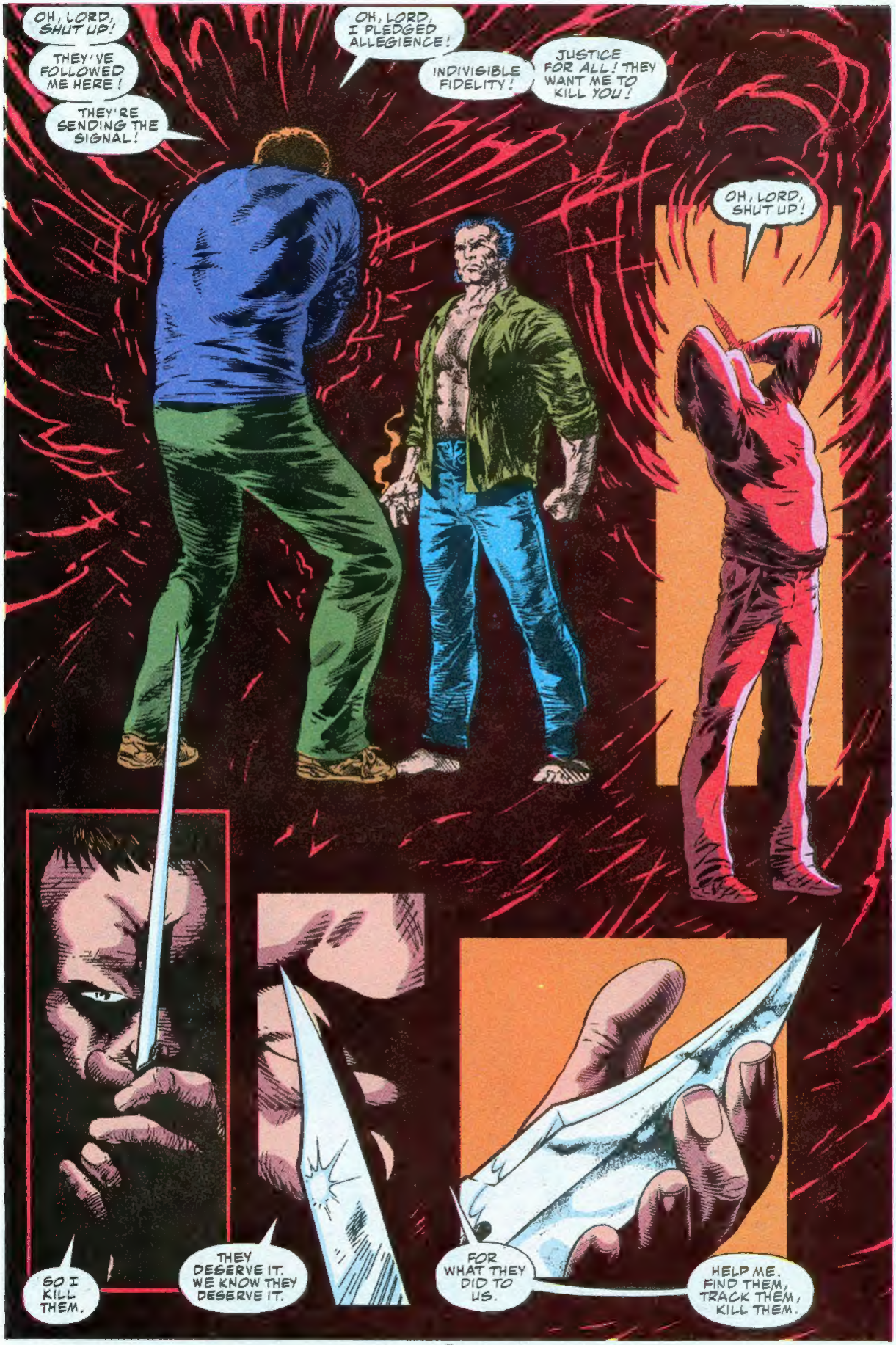
A FEW DAYS LATER...
...IN A LAST CHANCE MOTEL AT THE BOTTOM OF A DEAD END ROAD IN A NOWHERE TOWN...
...A MAN NAMED LOGAN SOMETIMES RETREATS TO PLACES LIKE THIS TO GET AWAY FROM THE HUMAN RACE.
IT'S LIKE DROPPING OUT, BECOMING INVISIBLE, AND A LITTLE LIKE DYING.
TRACK HIM DOWN AT YOUR OWN RISK...
TYPHOID'S KISS
PART 1: "IT'S NEVER OVER"
FEATURING: WOLVERINE
LOGAN!
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU AND HOW'D YOU FIND ME?
I'M YOUR KIND, LOGAN. WE FIND EACH OTHER.
LISTEN, BUB--I HATE RIDDLES.
ROBERTS. RING A BELL? FRANK'S DIVISION? A DECADE AGO?
NOPE.
I NEED YOUR HELP.
GET OUTTA HERE.
YOU CAN'T REFUSE A MAN ONCE YOU'VE SHARED THE TRENCHES WITH HIM.
I DON'T OWE YOU NOTHIN'.
AND YOU STINK OF SECRET SERVICE. WHICH EITHER MEANS YOUR TRAINING WAS LOUSY OR YOU'VE GONE ROGUE.
EITHER WAY, YOU NEED TO BE REELED IN.

SHUT THAT RADIO OFF, WILL YOU?
RADIO? THERE'S NO RADIO--
--OH, I GET IT.
CLOSE THE DOOR, BUB.
GLUG
GLUB GLUB
WHO TRAINED YOU?
THE PROJECT.
THEY KILLED ME. NOW I KILL THEM. THEY TELL ME TO IN MY HEAD, AND THEN I DO IT.
SOME PEOPLE MAKE SHOES. OTHERS PUT OUT FIRES. I KILL, WHENEVER THE RADIO TELLS ME TO.
WHY DON'T YOU SHUT UP AND HAVE A BEER...?
YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF ME.
YOU SHOULD BE.
WHY ARE YOU PSYCHOS ALWAYS SO STUPID?
YOU KNOW, AND I KNOW, THAT IF YOU SO MUCH AS FLINCH THAT KNIFE IN MY DIRECTION--
--I'LL SLICE YOUR BACON QUICKER THAN YOUR FAVORITE BUTCHER.
SO CUT THE BULL.
YEAH. I HEARD THAT ABOUT YOU.
THEY MARKED YOU. THEY MARKED ME. PSYCHIC SURGERY, REMEMBER?
FREUD SAYS THAT ONCE YOU EXPERIENCE A TRAUMA, YOU'RE DOOMED TO REPEAT IT.
OVER AND OVER.
THEY PLANTED THE THING IN MY HEAD. A BUG.
SO EVERYWHERE I GO, THEY FOLLOW ME. SEND ME MESSAGES.
IF ONLY I COULD DIG THE CRITTER OUT.
THEATRICS NEVER IMPRESS ME.
SO GIVE ME THE KNIFE, PAL.
YOU WANT MY KNIFE?
YES, SIR!


YAH!
CKRCK
UGH... YOU BROKE MY NOSE.
GUESS I DESERVED THAT.
BUT YOU RECOGNIZE MY STYLE, RIGHT? MY THRUSTS AND BLOCKS?
WE HAVE THE SAME VISIONS, TOO!
TREMORS! FLASHBACKS!
SOUND FAMILIAR?!
YOK
I'M THE GUY IN THE NEWS, PAL. THE ONE THAT COULD BE YOU.
HUH...? YOU'RE THAT GUY? THE SPY KILLER?
SO WHAT? I HATE SPIES.

STILL... I CAN'T LEAVE A SERIAL KILLER TO HIS HOBBY.
SNIKT!
YOU WANNA KILL ME? MAYBE THEY TRAINED YOU TO!
HOW CAN YOU TELL? THEY GAVE YOU YOUR INSTINCTS!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S YOUR MOVE AND WHAT'S THEIRS!
MAYBE. MAYBE NOT.
COULD BE THERE'S ONE LITTLE THING THAT SEPARATES US.
SNIKT!
TALK TO ME.
AND SPARE THE THEATRICS, PLEASE.
YOU KNOW MY STORY 'CAUSE YOU BEEN THROUGH IT.
THE VOICES, THE WIRES, TUBES, THE TRAINING.
I PLEDGED ALLEGIANCE! I LET THEM PUT A VOICE IN MY HEAD!
RIGHT? FIDELITY TO THE FLAG! IF YOU TRAIN PEOPLE TO MAKE SHOES, THEY MAKE SHOES, AND THEY ALWAYS KNOW HOW.
WELL, I KNOW HOW TO KILL! HALLELUJAH AND ROCKETS' RED GLARE! I KNOW HOW TO KILL.
YEAH, AFTER THE WAR WAS OVER, I FOUND OUT IT'S NEVER OVER.
I KEEP KILLING. I CAN'T STOP.

YEAH, I TOOK THE GIG. AFTER THE WAR.
THEY PAID ME WELL, AND I LET THEM STICK THEIR NEEDLES AND TUBES IN ME, HYPNOTIZE ME, DRUG ME, TRAIN ME.
BUT THEN THEY PUT THIS RECEIVER IN MY HEAD.
SO WHEN I QUIT, AND WENT ON WITH MY LIFE, THE VOICES FOLLOWED.
I MOVE, GET A NEW APARTMENT, AND SURE ENOUGH, SOMEONE ALWAYS MOVES IN NEXT DOOR OR UPSTAIRS...
...AND STARTS SENDING THAT SIGNAL INTO MY HEAD!
THEY CAN MAKE ME DO ANYTHING! THEY CAN STOP MY HEART, DRIVE ME CRAZY, KEEP ME FROM SLEEPING!
THEY MADE ME A KILLER, MADE ME KILL, THAT'S WHAT SOLDIERS DO... THAT'S OUR JOB AND THEN THEY TURNED ME ON THEIR OWN KIND--
THE SPY KILLER! THAT'S ME! GETTING RID OF DIRTY EVIDENCE.
AND NOW THEY WANT TO REEL ME IN. SO THEY GO PUBLIC, TELL THE NEWSPAPERS. I'LL BE A CAPTURED KILLER.
AND EVERYONE WILL BE HAPPY EVER AFTER.
I NEED YOU, LOGAN.
I NEED YOU TO GET SOME EVIDENCE ON THEM, SO I CAN FIGHT BACK, LEGALLY, OR BLACKMAIL THEM.
I GOT ONE CONTACT, HER NAME IS MARY WALKER.
THEY DID IT TO HER, TOO.
BUT TOGETHER, WE GOT SOME CLUES-- A WAREHOUSE, A FLOOR PLAN, SOME NAMES...
WE NEED YOU TO DO THE FOOTWORK.
YOU TALK TO HER, OKAY? SHE HAS A CODE NAME, TYPHOON, OR TORNADO... I FORGET WHAT...
HE'S NUTS.
BUT HE COULD BE ME.
I COULD BE HIM.


OH, LORD, SHUT UP!
THEY'VE FOLLOWED ME HERE!
THEY'RE SENDING THE SIGNAL!
OH, LORD, I PLEDGED ALLEGIENCE!
INDIVISIBLE FIDELITY!
JUSTICE FOR ALL! THEY WANT ME TO KILL YOU!
OH, LORD, SHUT UP!
SO I KILL THEM.
THEY DESERVE IT. WE KNOW THEY DESERVE IT.
FOR WHAT THEY DID TO US.
HELP ME. FIND THEM, TRACK THEM, KILL THEM.

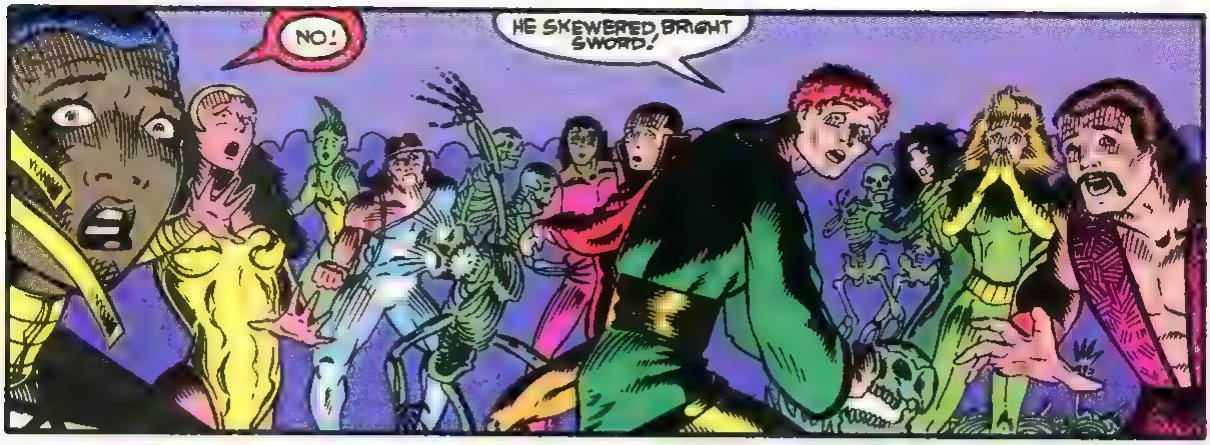
FIND HER! FIND THE TORNADO, THE TYPHOON, WHATEVER THE HECK HER NAME IS...
MARY! MARY WILL HELP YOU!
AVENGE ME. AVENGE US.
SO THEY TRAIN YOU TO KILL AND WHEN YOU WON'T KILL ANYMORE THEY TRY TO KILL YOU SO YOU KILL THEM FIRST THEN COME TO ME AND ASK ME TO KILL THEM OR YOU'LL KILL ME.
TALK ABOUT SICK LOGIC.
HEY-- ARRGH!
I WAS GONNA HELP YOU, CHUMP.
I HATE THEM SPY DOCTORS AS BAD AS YOU.
BUT YOU TRIED TO CUT ME.
YOU'RE GONNA REGRET THAT MOVE, BUB.
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

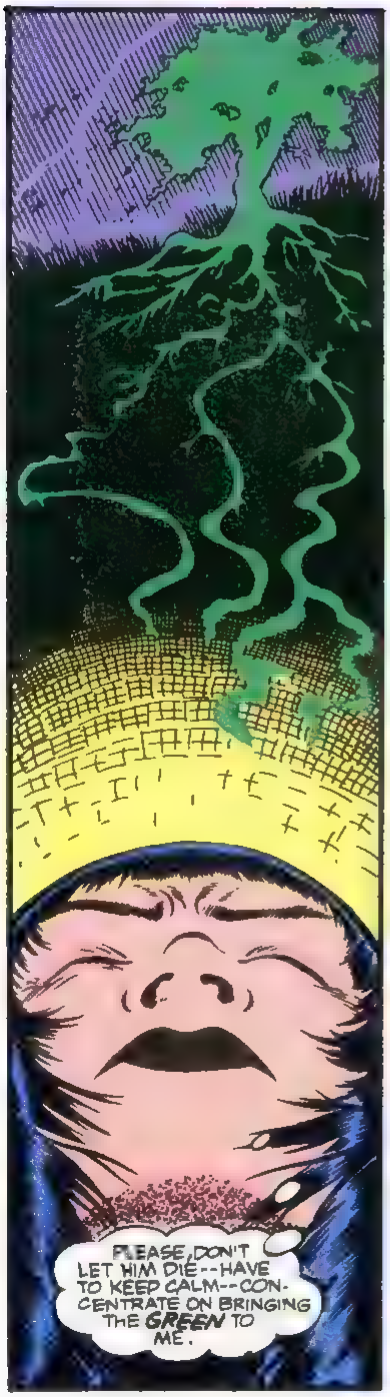
THE FINAL CONFLICT
HE IS NAUDA OF THE SILVER HAND.
A MALEVOLENT GOD, BENT ON DESTROYING HUMANITY WITH ITS OWN WEAKNESS--EMOTIONS.
SPECIFICALLY IRRATIONAL HATE. IN THE WRONG HANDS, IT IS INDEED A MOST POWERFUL WEAPON.
THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO TAKE THE POWER STORED WITHIN THE STONES AT MY FEET--
AGAINST A ROGUE GOD
FEATURING
THE YOUNG GODS
PART IX

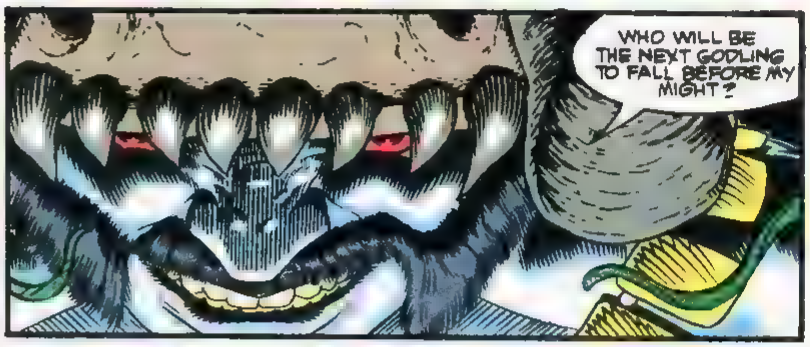
HUH?
SOMETHING IS WRONG.
THE STONES SEEM TO BE DEVOID OF THEIR ENERGIES--
AND FOR GOOD REASON.
THE YOUNG GODS-- FREE FROM YOUR BONDS?!
THAT'S RIGHT, NAUDA. WE ALLOWED YOU TO CAPTURE US IN ORDER TO LEARN YOUR PLANS.
THOSE STONES ARE AN ILLUSION CREATED BY DAY-DREAMER. THE ORIGINALS ARE SAFELY HIDDEN AWAY.
YOU HAVE TRICKED ME FOR THE LAST TIME.
KILL THEM.
BRACE YOURSELVES, THIS IS GOING TO BE NASTY.

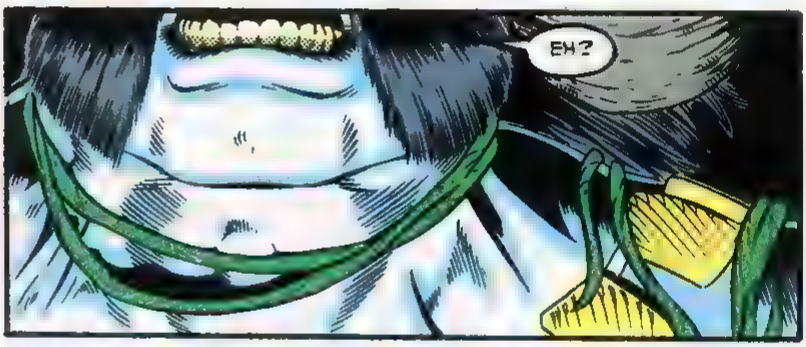
THE BATTLE IS JOINED.
SPLICE USES HER EYE BEAMS TO TURN THE MONSTERS' WEAPONS AGAINST THEM...
BRIGHT SWORD WIELDS HIS BLADE LIKE THE TRUE WARRIOR HE IS...
I USE MY CONTROL OVER WATER TO CAUSE THE BOILING POOL TO SPOUT WATER JETS,
THE OTHER YOUNG GODS ALSO FIGHT VALIANTLY BUT TO NO AVAIL.
TELL ME, NAUDA--
SMASH
--WHY DO YOU STAND ON THE SIDE-LINES, ALLOWING YOUR MINIONS TO SUFFER THE BLOWS MEANT FOR YOU?
COULD IT BE THAT YOU ARE A COWARD?
MY BLADE SHALL DANCE THROUGH YOUR HEART FOR THAT!

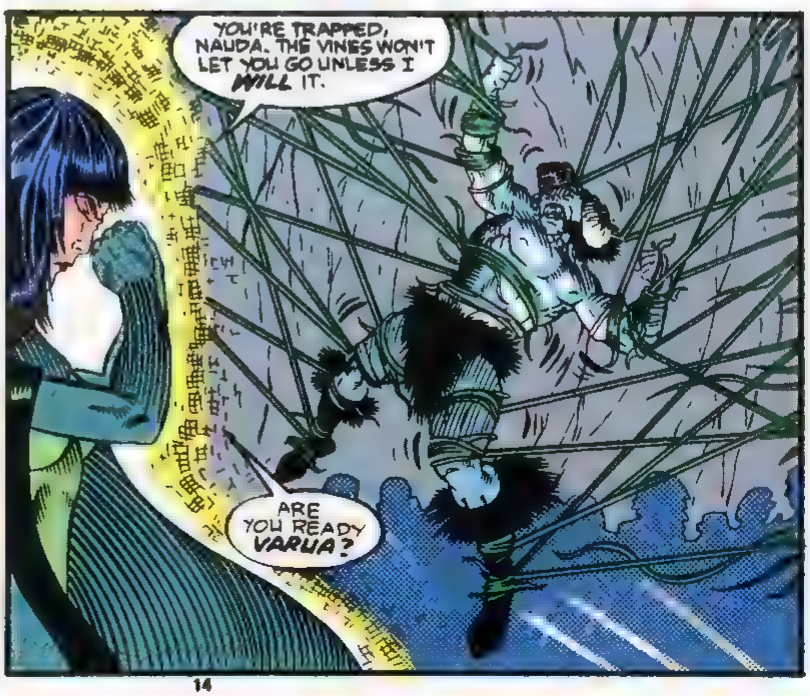
WHERE ARE YOUR SMUG REMARKS NOW?
SHA-ZOOM
UNGH! SUCH FORCE...
BRIGHT SWORD-- NAUDA'S TOO MUCH FOR HIM. I'VE GOT TO HELP HIM.
LAY DOWN YOUR SWORD AND GIVE ME THE STONES AND I SHALL SPARE YOUR LIFE.
NEVER.
SO BE IT.
Whoosh
MY SWORD!
GOT TO CONCENTRATE-- BECOME ATTUNED WITH THE AREA'S VEGETATION...
IT'S TIME THAT YOU LEARNED THAT EVEN GODS CAN DIE!
ACCK!


NO!
HE SKEWERED BRIGHT SWORD!


PLEASE, DON'T LET HIM DIE--HAVE TO KEEP CALM--CONCENTRATE ON BRINGING THE GREEN TO ME.


WHO WILL BE THE NEXT GODLING TO FALL BEFORE MY MIGHT?


EH?


YOU'RE TRAPPED, NAUDA. THE VINES WON'T LET YOU GO UNLESS I WILL IT.
ARE YOU READY VARUA?

YES.
QUICKLY, MY FRIENDS, OPEN UP YOUR MINDS TO ME...
...LET ME GUIDE YOU AS OUR CONSCIOUSNESSES MELD INTO ONE, BECOMING--
--THE UNI-MIND!
I/WE SENSE YOUR WEAKNESS. THERE IS NO MORE HATE FOR YOU TO TAP INTO.
I/WE ARE TOO POWERFUL FOR YOU.
NOOOOOOO
IT IS DONE.
NAUDA HAS BEEN VANQUISHED FOREVER.
LET'S NOT START PATTING OURSELVES ON THE BACK JUST YET...
...THIS PLACE IS ABOUT TO CAVE IN ON US!
RRUMBLE
CRUMBLE

AND THAT'S JUST WHAT HE DOES--
--SECONDS BEFORE NÂUDA'S SUPERNATURAL CHAMBER OF HORRORS FALLS IN ON ITSELF.
BOOM
CRUMBLE
CRASH
DON'T WORRY. I'LL SING US OUT OF HERE.
THE MORNING AIR IS COOL AND SWEET.
AND THE SUN'S LIGHT WASHES OVER US-- HEALING OUR WOUNDS.
BRIGHT SWORD WILL BE ALL RIGHT. HARVEST WILL SEE TO THAT.
THERE, I'VE HEALED THE STONES OF THE HATE THAT WAS STORED WITHIN THEM. I GUESS WE WON, RIGHT?
ONLY THIS BATTLE, CADUCEUS. THE HATRED THAT POWERED THE STONES IS STILL OUT THERE--
--AND IT SHALL NOT BE AS EASILY DEFEATED AS NÂUDA WAS...
...NOT BY A LONG SHOT.
THE END.

MARVEL
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
GHOST RIDER AND THE WEREWOLF
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ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
THANOS
30TH ANNIVERSARY
1962 1992
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL READERS PRESENT

Dear Terry,

Personally, I think the two competing "claw" rating systems (Ien Biehl's 1-to-3 and Nathan Olsen's 0-is-best-6-is-worst) are getting a bit too confusing for this poor letters page reader. Therefore, allow me to initiate a new ratings system: one based on characters from "Gilligan's Island."

Ghost Rider/Dr. Strange: The disjointed style of the captions and the dialogue remind me of Ann Nocenti, but without the quirky socio-political commentary that makes her work appeal to me. I've always liked Leonardi's art, but Mackie's story doesn't do anything for me. It's pumped up and full of bluster, but I find it hollow and powerless. For this reason, I give it a Skipper.

Rintrah: While the Shakespeare references were enjoyable, I thought the actual story was pretty silly. This is Gilligan in Professor's clothing.

Young Gods: I'm sorry, but I just haven't been able to get into this storyline so far. Like the Ghost Rider/Dr. Strange story, I found this one rather ineffectual. However, it gets points for its grand scale. It's trying to be the Professor, and, while I don't think it quite makes it, its extravagance earns a Mr. Howell. Tom Sutton's art, however, gets a Mary Ann (not flashy or glitzy, but with more heart than the stylish, vapid Ginger).

Wolverine/Nightcrawler: Now, this is tough. The first two chapters were pleasantly Gilligan, but now it's taken a darker turn. What started out as a light-hearted romp has now become sinister. This new, menacing direction gets it a rating of Those Headhunters Who Showed Up On The Island Every Few Episodes.

I hope the "Gilligan" system catches on with MCP readers. Who knows, perhaps eventually the coconut will supplant the claw!

Erich Mees
Emory University
P.O. Box 21120
Atlanta, GA 30322

We don't know, Erich. To be honest, your method doesn't sound too simple, either. How good does something have to be to get the much-coveted Mrs. Howell? Or how bad to get the Harold Hecuba? Uh, oh... we'd better stop now...

Dear Terry,

I am new to the world of comic collecting (I started collecting MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS with the Weapon-X series), and therefore I don't know as much about the established artists as I'd like to. However, a letter to MCP #103 compelled me to write for the first time. As I have previously stated, I don't know much about artists, but I know what I like, and I like Sam Kieth.

I must admit that I was skeptical when I first saw Mr. Kieth's work (on the "Blood Hungry" series, I believe), however, the more I saw of his work, the more I enjoyed it. Sam's unique style brings his characters to life, making them more than just costumes and muscles. His art has made MCP a "must have" every month.

In my opinion, a great artist like Sam Kieth should not be criticized for having his own idea of the way a character should appear. People are entitled to their own opinions, of course—but not everyone can draw Cable like Rob Liefeld. I enjoy Mr. Liefeld's version of the character, but I believe that it is the variety of styles that make artists like Liefeld, Kieth, Todd McFarlane and Jim Lee special.

In my opinion, if you keep an open mind when you view Sam Kieth's art, and don't compare it to the work of others, you will enjoy it much more. Thank you!

Jeremy Wells
618 Hicks Ave.
S. Shore, KY 41175

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
GHOST RIDER

Sam Kieth — COVER
Terry Kavanagh — EDITOR
Mark Powers — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.

GHOST RIDER/ WEREWOLF..... 1

RETURN OF THE BRAINEATERS
Part 3 of 6
"BATTLE ON THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE"

Having confronted each other at the close of our previous chapter, Ghost Rider and the Werewolf team up to track the vicious Braineaters motorcycle gang...

Writer — CHRIS COOPER
Penciler — JOHN STANISCI
Inker — JIMMY PALMIOTTI/ KEN BRANCH
Letterer —STEVE DUTRO
Colorist — FRED MENDEZ

pg.

THANOS 9

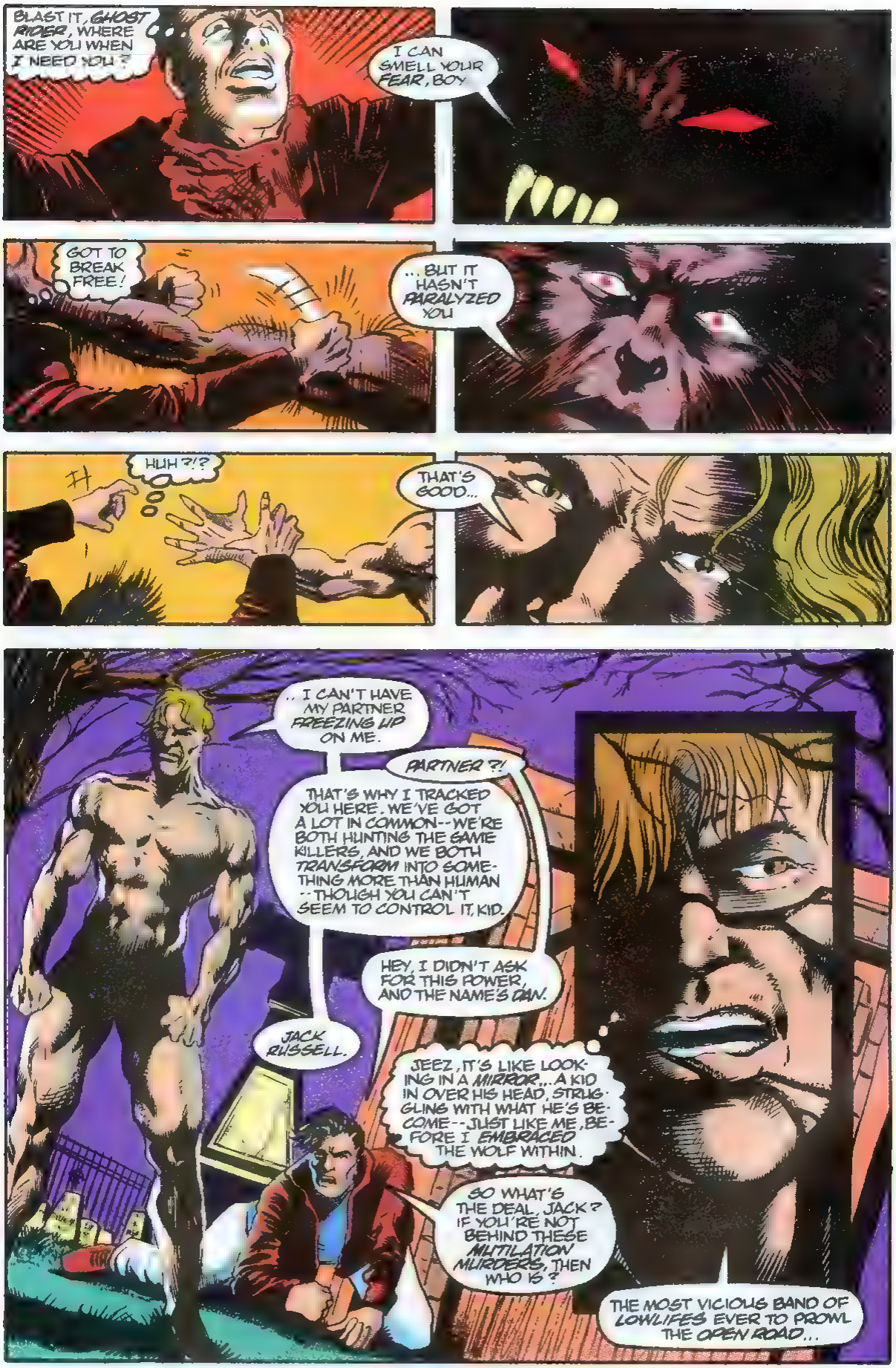
I, THANOS
Part 2 of 4
"INTO THE ABYSS"

Separated from the Infinity Watch, and sucked into Mistress Death's dark realm, Thanos must now defeat the Legion of the Doomed–or become one of them!

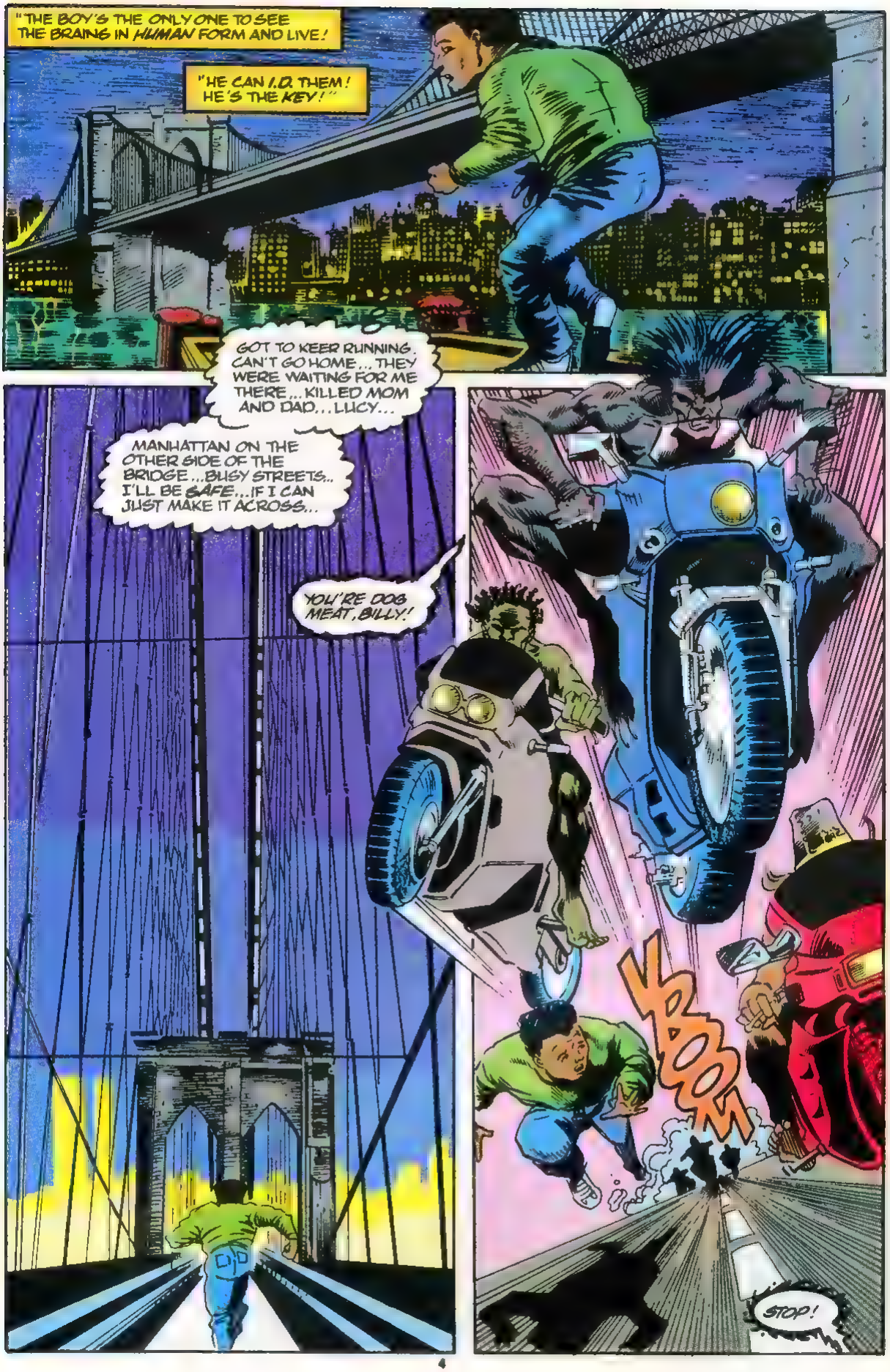
Writer —JIM STARLIN
Artist — SHAWN McMANUS
Letterer — MICHAEL HIGGINS
Colorist — JOHN KALISZ

NEXT ISSUE: WOLVERINE SEEKS OUT TYPHOID MARY! THE BRAINEATERS CONTINUE THEIR RAMPAGE--DARING GHOST RIDER AND THE WEREWOLF TO STOP THEM! THANOS--AT LONG LAST --SPEAKS TO MISTRESS DEATH! ALL THIS, PLUS A BRAND-NEW FEATURE!

RETURN OF THE BRAINEATERS
PART 3: BATTLE ON THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE
DAN KETCH HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO A SERIES OF BRUTAL MURDERS IN BROOKLYN.
HE DIDN'T REALIZE THAT SOMETHING WAS LOOKING FOR HIM.
WHAT ? NO QUICK CHANGE INTO THE DEMON BIKER ?
FEATURING
GHOST RIDER
AND
WEREWOLF


BLAST IT, GHOST RIDER, WHERE ARE YOU WHEN I NEED YOU?
I CAN SMELL YOUR FEAR, BOY
GOT TO BREAK FREE!
...BUT IT HASN'T PARALYZED YOU
HUH?!?
THAT'S GOOD...
.. I CAN'T HAVE MY PARTNER FREEZING UP ON ME.
PARTNER?!
THAT'S WHY I TRACKED YOU HERE. WE'VE GOT A LOT IN COMMON--WE'RE BOTH HUNTING THE SAME KILLERS, AND WE BOTH TRANSFORM INTO SOMETHING MORE THAN HUMAN--THOUGH YOU CAN'T SEEM TO CONTROL IT, KID.
HEY, I DIDN'T ASK FOR THIS POWER, AND THE NAME'S DAN.
JACK RUSSELL.
JEEZ, IT'S LIKE LOOKING IN A MIRROR... A KID IN OVER HIS HEAD, STRUGGLING WITH WHAT HE'S BECOME--JUST LIKE ME, BEFORE I EMBRACED THE WOLF WITHIN.
SO WHAT'S THE DEAL, JACK? IF YOU'RE NOT BEHIND THESE MUTILATION MURDERS, THEN WHO IS?
THE MOST VICIOUS BAND OF LOWLIFES EVER TO PROWL THE OPEN ROAD...

.. THE BRAINEATERS! A BIKER GANG OF WERE-WOLVES WHO CAN CHANGE AT WILL, LIKE ME...
...BUT THEY ABUSE THE GIFT, USING IT FOR VIOLENT ATROCITIES, JUST FOR THE RUSH!
"I FIRST RAN INTO THEM OUT IN CALIFORNIA...
".. WHERE THEY TURNED A DRIVE-IN DOUBLE FEATURE INTO A SLAUGHTERFEST.
"THEN THEY WERE CUT DOWN BY SILVER-BULLET-TOTING FANATICS*... OR SO I THOUGHT.
*SEE MCP #s 54-59 FOR THE WHOLE BLOODY TALE!--TERRY
"LATER I LEARNED THAT THOSE BRAIN-EATERS WERE ONLY PART OF THE GROUP.
"A SECOND GANG WAS KILLING ITS WAY CROSS-CONTINENT. I'VE BEEN TRACKING THEM FOR MONTHS.
"I'VE GOT TO SHOW THEM A BETTER WAY FOR OUR KIND--OR TAKE THEM DOWN FOR GOOD. TOO MANY OF THEM FOR ME TO CONFRONT ALONE, BUT THE TWO OF US TOGETHER..."
WE MAY GET OUR CHANCE--THAT GLOWING GAS CAP MEANS GHOST RIDER'S NEEDED... INNOCENT BLOOD HAS BEEN SPILLED!
THE LITTLE BOY'S IN DANGER--THAT'S GOT TO BE IT!


"THE BOY'S THE ONLY ONE TO SEE THE BRAINS IN HUMAN FORM AND LIVE!
"HE CAN I.D. THEM! HE'S THE KEY!"
GOT TO KEEP RUNNING. CAN'T GO HOME... THEY WERE WAITING FOR ME THERE... KILLED MOM AND DAD... LUCY...
MANHATTAN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE... BUSY STREETS... I'LL BE SAFE... IF I CAN JUST MAKE IT ACROSS...
YOU'RE DOG MEAT, BILLY!
KBOOM
STOP!

THE CHILD IS UNDER MY PROTECTION!
GRRRAAAAAAARRR!
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT THING?
DOESN'T MATTER-- THERE'S ONLY ONE OF HIM..
WHO--?
RUSSELL!
NOW TO GRAB HIS WHEELS AND SEE IF GHOST RIDER NEEDS A HAND.
KROM

OH, MAN--I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!
RUN, CHILD!
HIS CHAIN--
CAN'T HURT US! IT'S NOT SILVER!
WE'RE BARELY SLOWING HIM DOWN!
THAT'S ANOTHER ONE OUT OF THE PICTURE, BUT THREE MORE ARE HEADING OUR WAY, GHOST RIDER!
KRASH

SKREEK
MY CHAIN, RUSSELL-- TAKE ONE END!
GAK!
HE'S OFF HIS BIKE! NAIL HIM!
BO
OM
JACK, GRAB THE BOY AND RIDE--I'LL HOLD THE PACK AT BAY!

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE

I, THANOS,
AM ATTACKED BY MISTRESS DEATH'S LEGION OF THE DOOMED.
I AM ASSAULTED BY THE MINIONS OF HER WHOM I ONCE VOWED TO LOVE FOREVER.
HER DARK THRALLS SEEK TO PULL ME BACK INTO THEIR DECOMPOSING RANKS.
I SHALL NOT ALLOW THIS!
"I, THANOS"
PART TWO
"LEGION OF THE DOOMED"

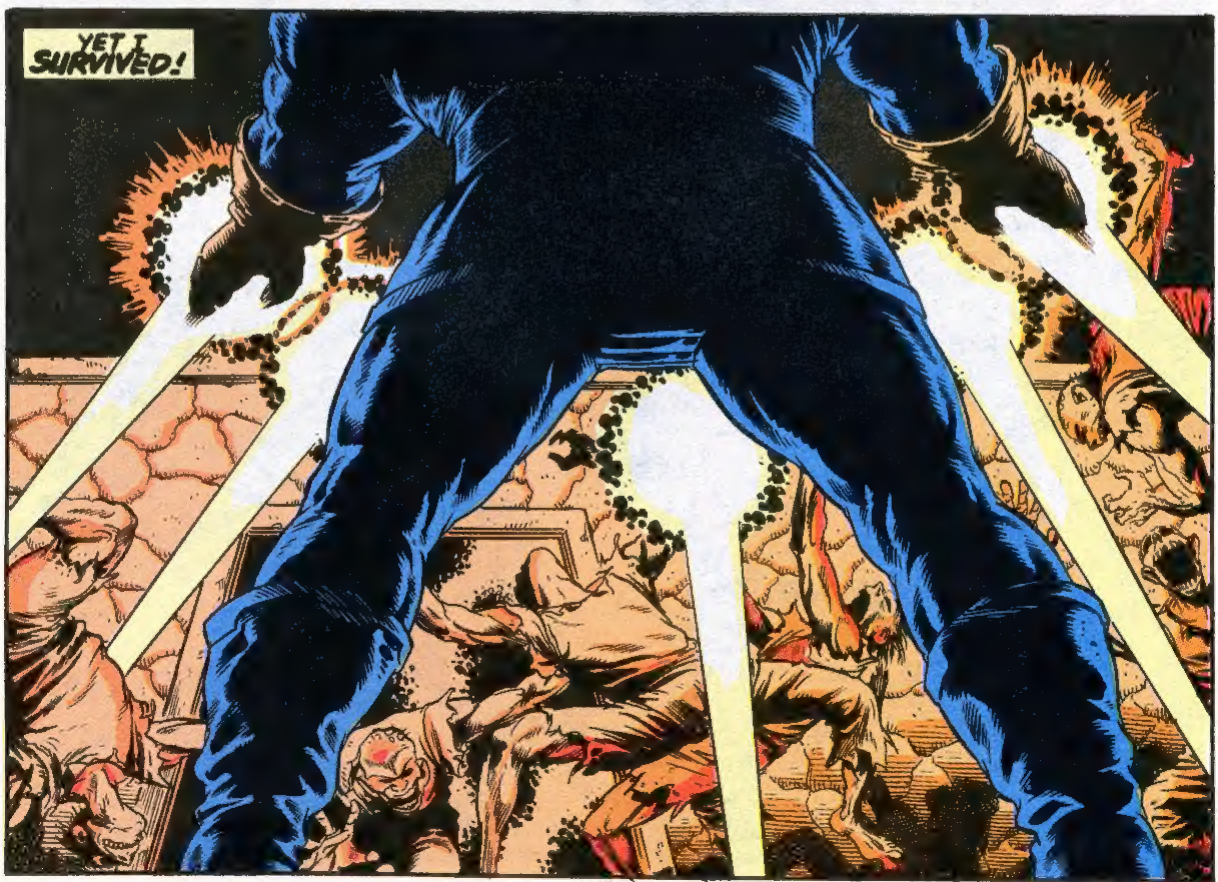
SINCE I WAS BUT A CHILD, MY HEART BELONGED TO DEATH.
LIFE HELD NO ALLURE FOR ME, SEEMED BARREN AND UNCOMPROMISING.
BUT THE COOL ENTICEMENTS OF OBLIVION...
...THEY SEEMED TO OFFER ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.
TO WIN FAVOR, I DISPATCHED MANY LOVE OFFERINGS TO MY DISTANT GODDESS.
...UNTIL MY PRIVATE OBSESSION EVENTUALLY BECAME PUBLIC.
THE REVELATION ONLY PROMPTED ME ON TO GREATER NUMBERS.
I BEGAN TO DISPATCH HUNDREDS INSTEAD OF MERE INDIVIDUALS.
AND MISTRESS DEATH FINALLY TOOK NOTICE OF HER MOST ARDENT WORSHIPER.

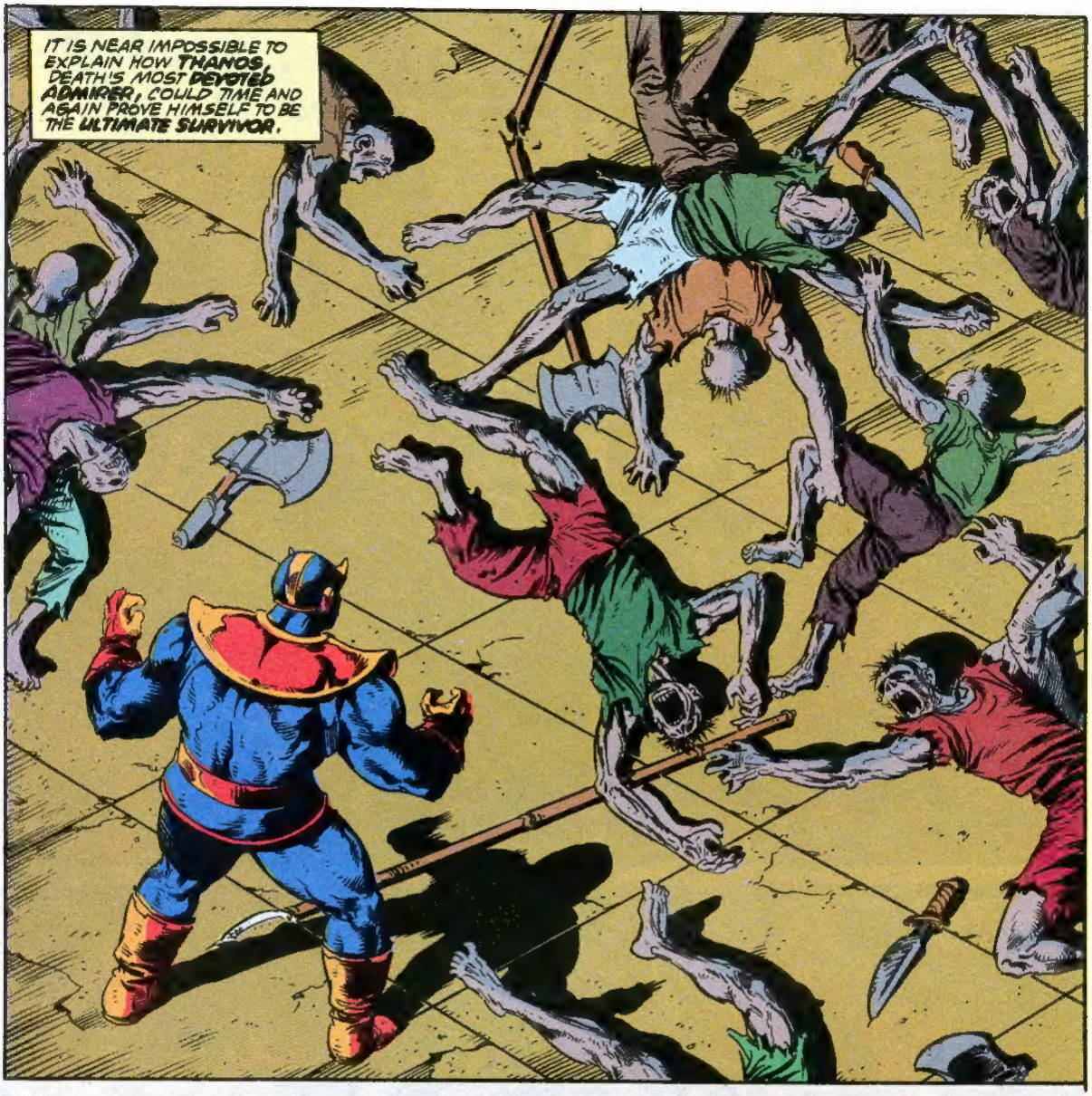
SHE CAME TO ME IN THE GUISE OF ICY BEAUTY.
ONLY AFTER MANY TRIALS DID SHE DEIGN TO SHOW ME HER TRUE FACE.
FROM THAT MOMENT FORTH I WAS DEATH'S LOVE SLAVE, BODY AND SOUL.
I WANTED TO GIVE HER THE UNIVERSE AND DIED TRYING.
BUT SUCH A STEADFAST DEVOTEE COULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO LANGUISH IN THE ASHES.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN RECORDED HISTORY, THE MISTRESS PRESSED A LOVER BACK INTO THE FLESH, TO FURTHER SERVICE HER.
PART OF ME REALIZED THE HONOR IN THIS SELECTION, YET ANOTHER PART FELT IT WAS A REJECTION OF THE PASSIONS I SUFFERED FOR DEATH, A BETRAYAL.
PERHAPS THAT IS WHAT EVENTUALLY DROVE ME TO GODHOOD.

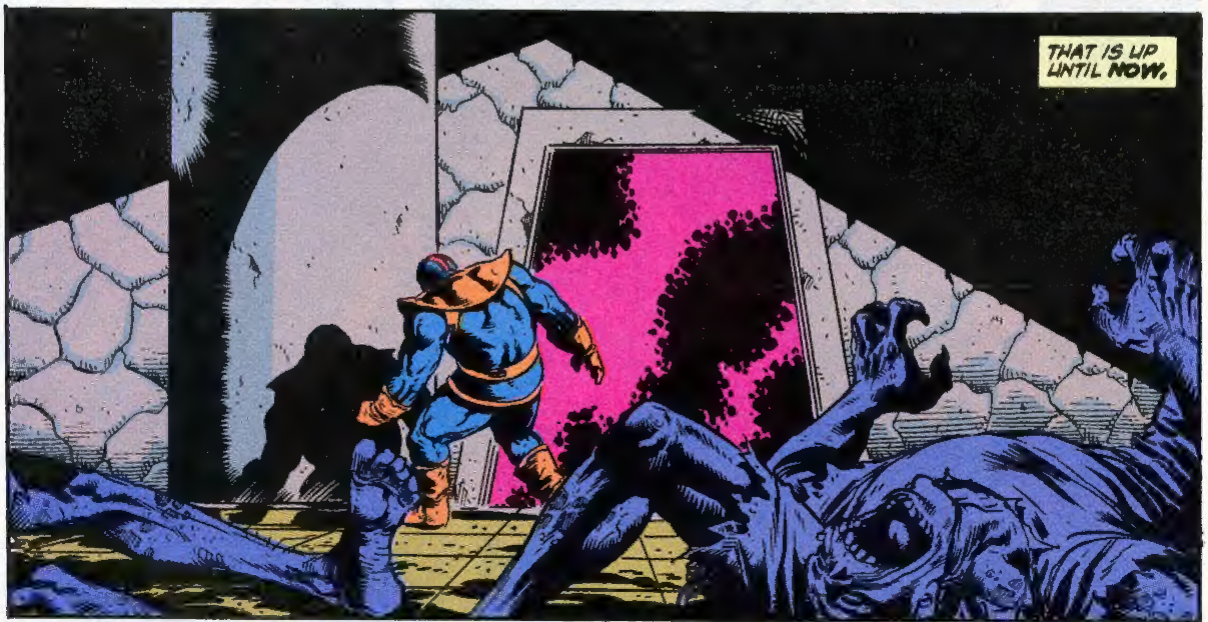
THE INFINITY GEMS GAVE ME CONTROL OVER TIME, SPACE, ALL POWER, THE MIND, THE SOUL, REALITY: ALL THERE IS.
AS GOD, THE SOVEREIGN POWER IN THE UNIVERSE, I CHOSE MISTRESS DEATH TO BE MY QUEEN.
IT WAS MY MISTRESS'S TURN TO FEEL BETRAYED,
SHE WHO HAD NEVER BENT A KNEE TO ANY LIVING SOUL, NOW FOUND HERSELF AS MY THRALL.
YES, I COULD HAVE, WITH BUT A THOUGHT, FORCED DEATH TO WORSHIP ME AS I DID HER,
BUT LOVE BOUND IN CHAINS HAS NO VALUE.

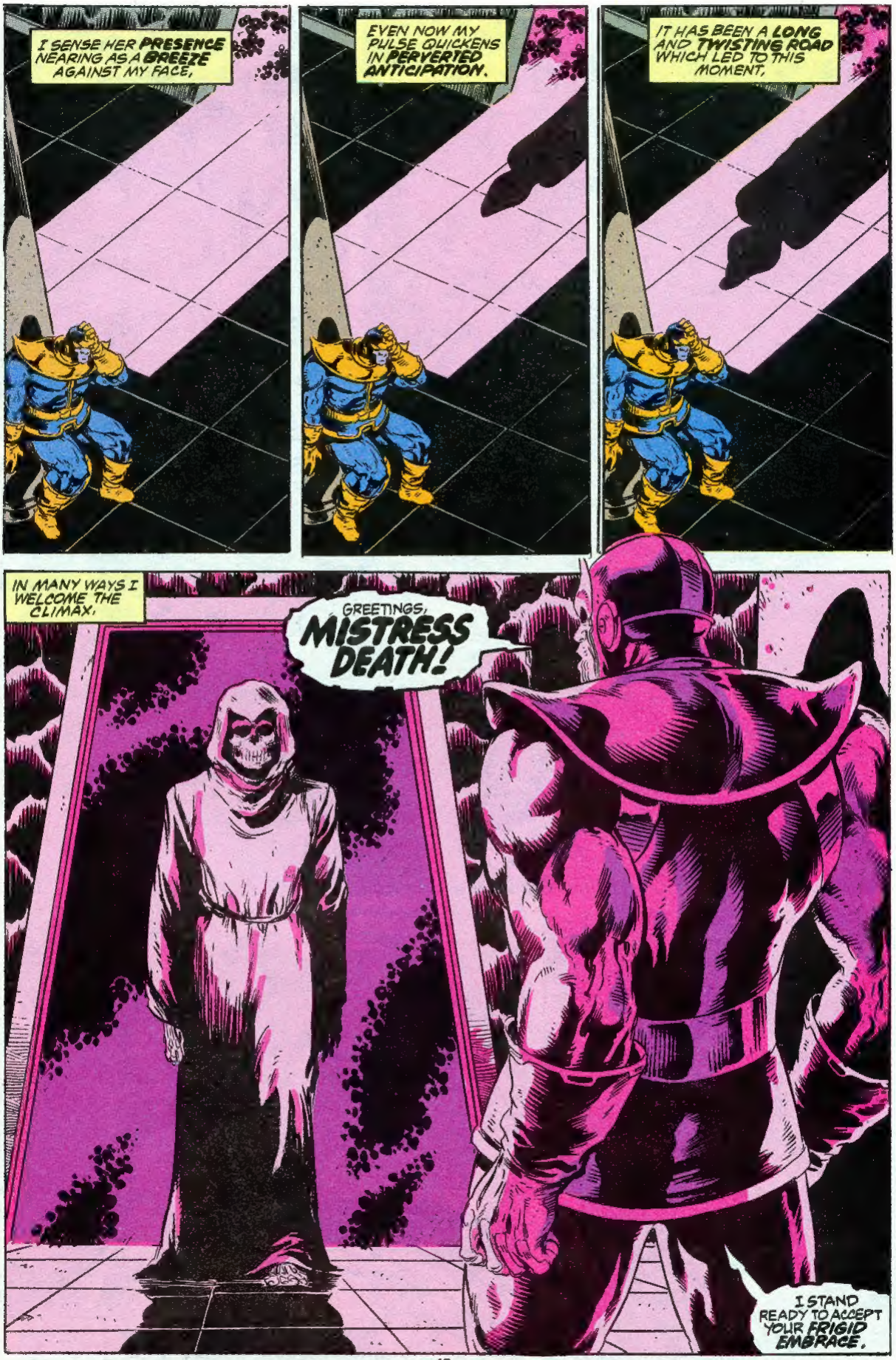
I LEFT MISTRESS DEATH HER FREE WILL.

IN THE END SHE TURNED ON ME,
THE MANTLE OF SUPREMACY EVENTUALLY FELL FROM MY SHOULDERS SHORTLY AFTER THAT.


YET I SURVIVED!


IT IS NEAR IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN HOW THANOS, DEATH'S MOST DEVOTED ADMIRER, COULD TIME AND AGAIN PROVE HIMSELF TO BE THE ULTIMATE SURVIVOR.


THAT IS UP UNTIL NOW.


I SENSE HER PRESENCE NEARING AS A BREEZE AGAINST MY FACE,
EVEN NOW MY PULSE QUICKENS IN PERVERTED ANTICIPATION.
IT HAS BEEN A LONG AND TWISTING ROAD WHICH LED TO THIS MOMENT,
IN MANY WAYS I WELCOME THE CLIMAX.
GREETINGS, MISTRESS DEATH!
I STAND READY TO ACCEPT YOUR FRIGID EMBRACE.

I KNEW I WOULD NOT LONG ESCAPE YOUR VENGEANCE.
BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS, MISTRESS.
...YOUR DECISION IN CHOOSING THIS MOMENT TO CLAIM ME COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE POORLY TIMED.
THIS CLAIM I MAKE FOR MYSELF, THE SAKE OF THE UNIVERSE AND YOUR OWN SAFETY.
I AM INVOLVED IN A STRUGGLE AGAINST A POWERFUL MANIAC WHOSE VAST RESOURCES COULD CONCEIVABLY MENACE EVEN YOU AND YOUR REALM.
I KNOW.
YOU SPOKE... AND NOT THROUGH ANY INTERMEDIARY!
YOU SPOKE DIRECTLY TO ME!
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...